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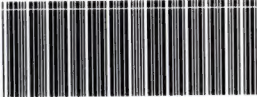




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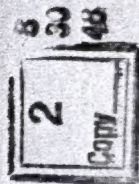
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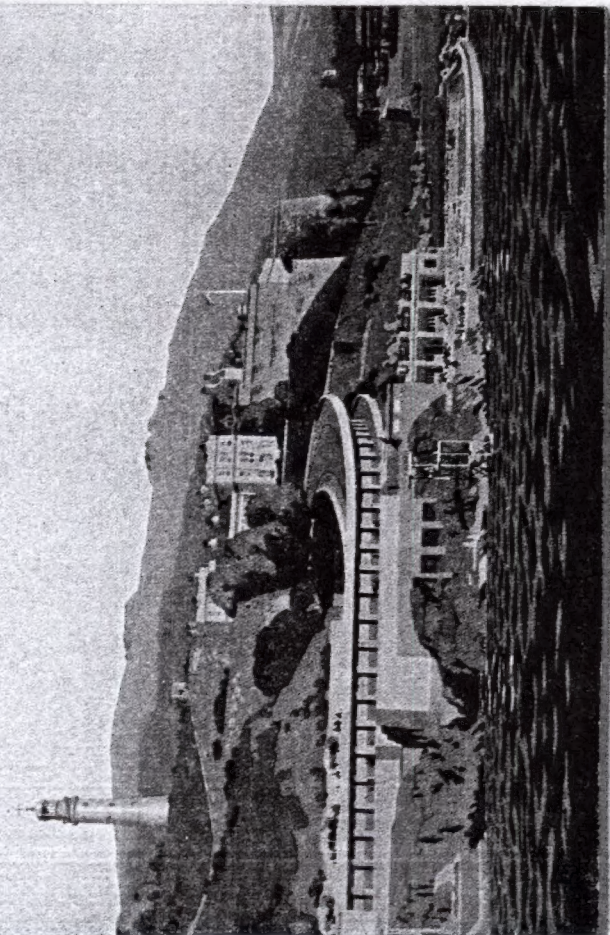
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Gisborough Priory

YORKSHIRE

by

R. GILYARD-BEER, M.A., F.S.A.

Inspector of Ancient Monuments for England

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HISTORY

THE foundation of Gisborough Priory was part of the early twelfth-century religious revival in the north of England. For half a century after the Norman Conquest there were comparatively few monasteries north of the Humber, and Yorkshire itself, still suffering economically from the effects of the Conqueror's punitive expedition, and possessing only three great religious houses—the Benedictine abbey of York, Selby and Whitby—offered a field for both agricultural and spiritual pioneering. Although their part in the revival was later overshadowed by the more spectacular role played by the Cistercians, the Canons Regular of St. Augustine were first in the field, and during the twenty years before the arrival of the Cistercians they had already established houses in Yorkshire at Bridlington, Nostell, Gisborough and Kirkham.

The Priory of St. Mary of Gisborough was founded for Augustinian Canons by Robert de Brus, the most considerable Norman lord in north-east Yorkshire, on the counsel and advice of Archbishop Thurstan of York and Pope Calixtus II. There is some uncertainty about the exact date of the foundation. The historian Walter of Hemingburgh, himself a canon of Gisborough, says that the Priory was founded in 1129, but the existence of a charter of confirmation from Pope Calixtus, in which the canons are referred to as being already installed, shows that the date must fall between 1119 and 1124, the years of his pontificate. Copies of two charters of foundation have survived, one much more detailed than the other, and the most reasonable inference to be drawn from them is that the shorter of the two is the earlier, perhaps of 1119, representing the actual foundation, whilst the longer is a later and more definitive

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SCARBOROUGH CASTLE YORKSHIRE

History

THE most ancient remains yet discovered on Scarborough headland are of rubbish pits belonging to a village settlement of the late Bronze Age, the site of this being on the extreme eastern side of the headland. When the pits were excavated, many interesting objects were found, such as bronze tools, pins, harness rings and also pieces of decorated pottery. The character of these objects suggests that this site was a settlement of invaders from Holland or the Rhineland countries at a date possibly 700 or 800 years before the Roman occupation of Britain.

Late in the Roman period soon after A.D. 370, the same spot was selected for one of the signal stations erected on prominent points of the Yorkshire coast between Flamborough Head and the Tees to give warning by smoke-signals of the approach of hostile ships. After the withdrawal of the Roman troops in about A.D. 410 the signal station became derelict, and we have little knowledge of the site until shortly before the Norman Conquest when, about A.D. 1000, a chapel was built within the partly ruined walls of the Roman signal station.

It is not until the reign of Stephen (1135-1154) that we have the first reference to a medieval castle. It is recorded that it was begun before the death of Henry I (1135) by William le Gros, Earl of Albermarle who in 1138 defeated the Scots at the Battle of the Standard, near Northallerton. As a result of this victory Le Gros became a great power in the north, and was created Earl of Yorkshire by King Stephen : and he made his castle of Scarborough his main stronghold.

The fortifications, which were already begun if not finished by 1138, consisted of a ditch across the narrow neck of high ground which joins the headland to the mainland, and a masonry wall on top of the cliff on the two sides which were not washed by the sea, that is to say the south-west side, and the southern part of the west side. At the entrance (which must have been much where it is now) was a gate-tower of stone.

When Henry II came to the throne, in 1154 he seized Scarborough Castle, among others, in pursuance of his policy of reducing the power of the barons. Le Gros at first refused to yield, but ultimately surrendered his castle to the King. He finally died at Bytham Castle in Lincolnshire in 1179 at the age of 83.

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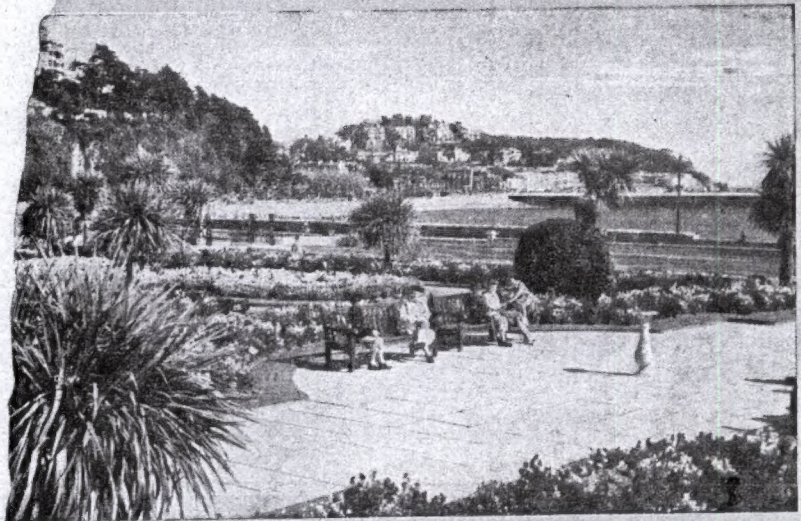
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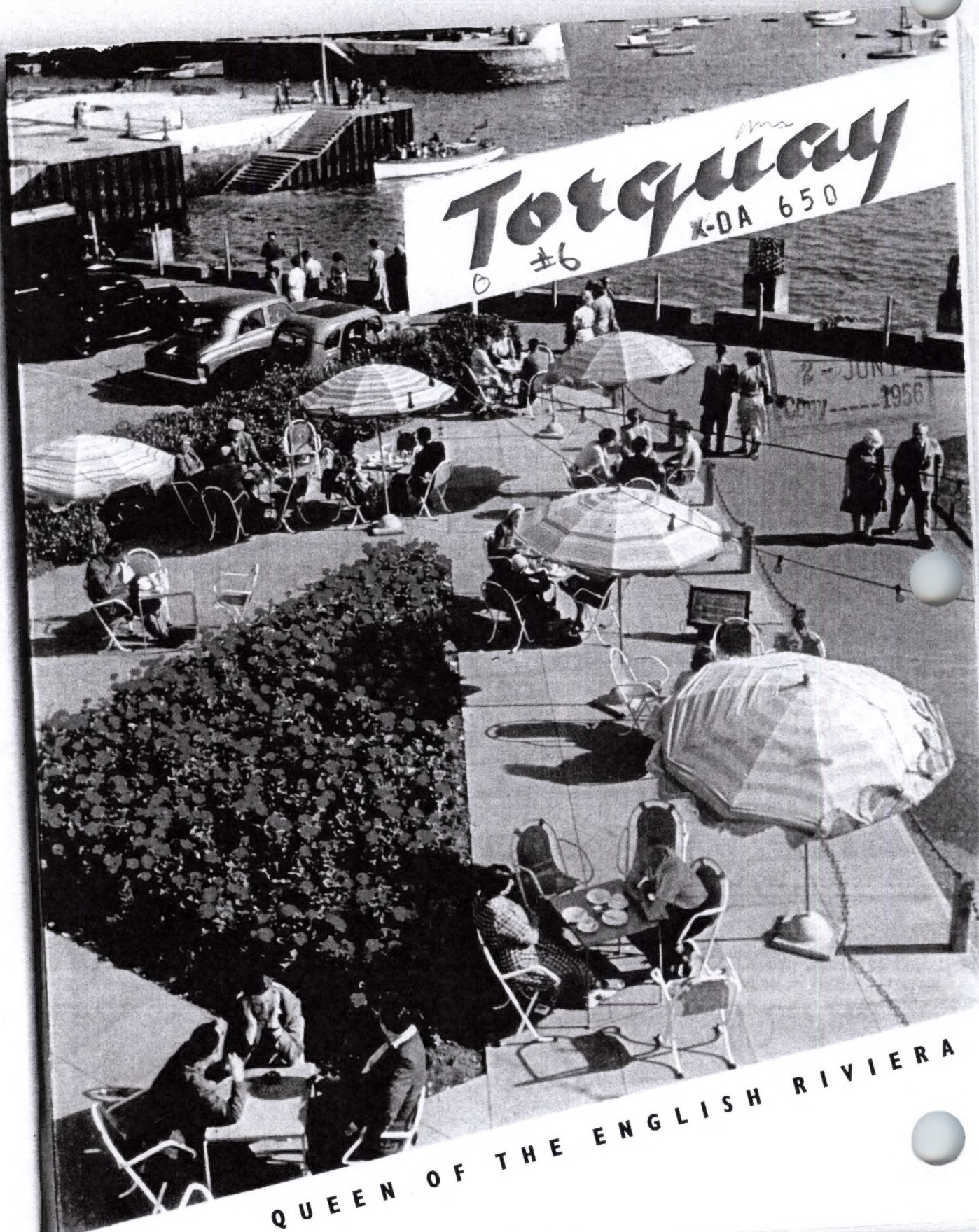
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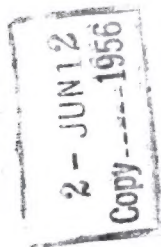


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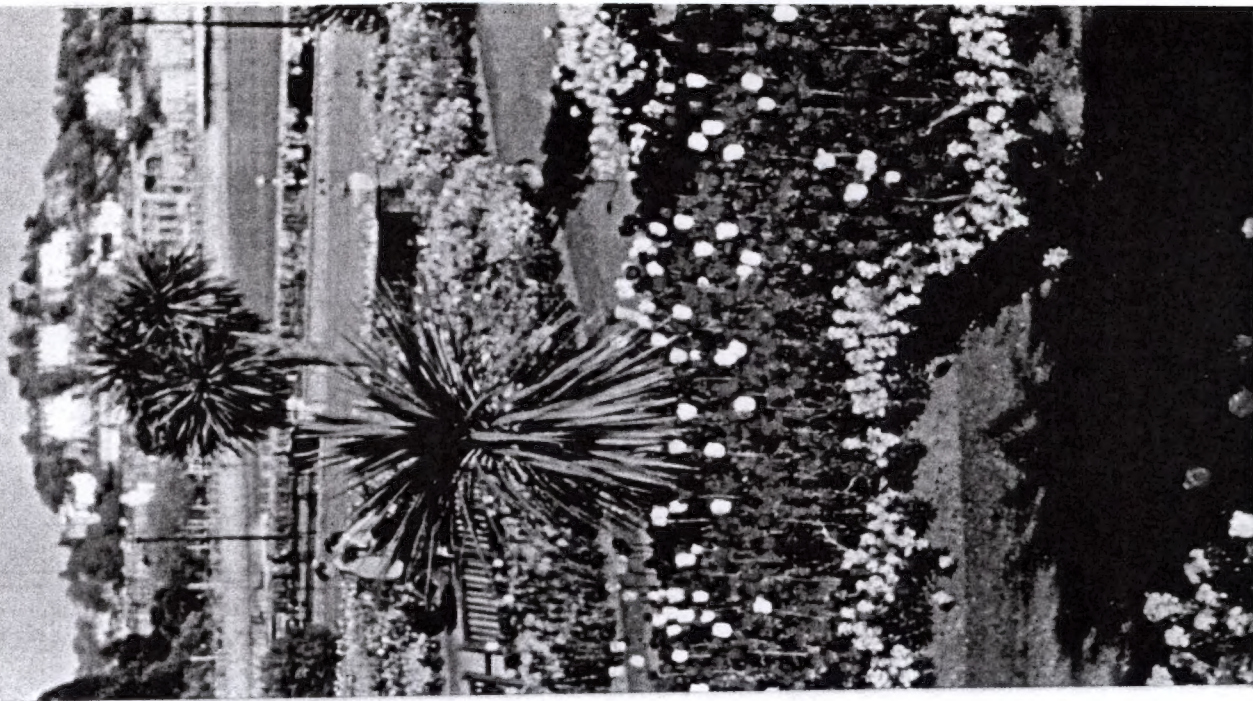
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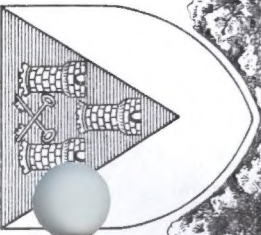
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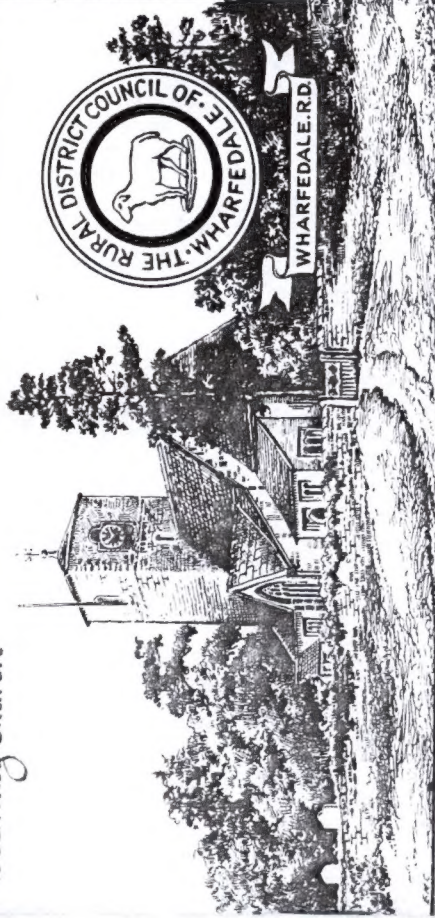
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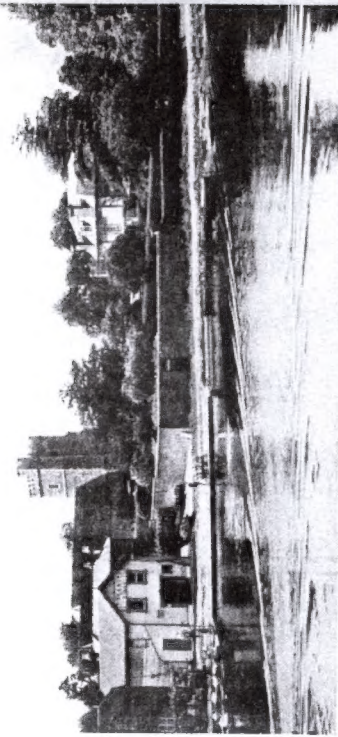
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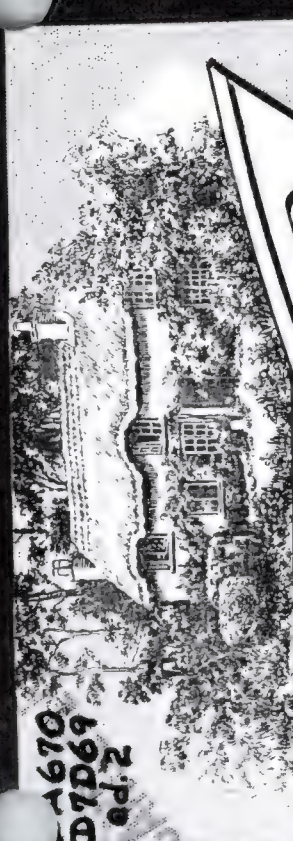
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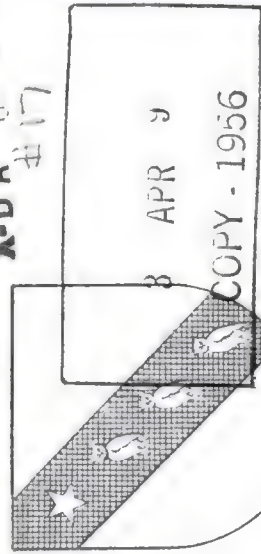


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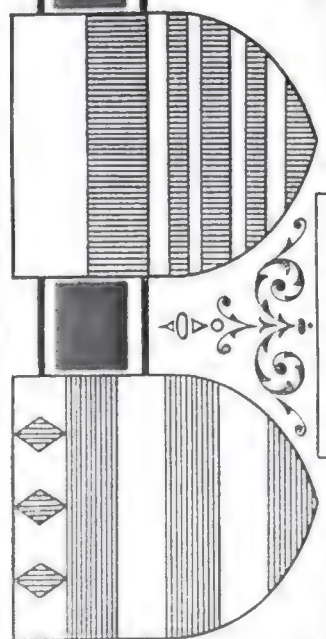
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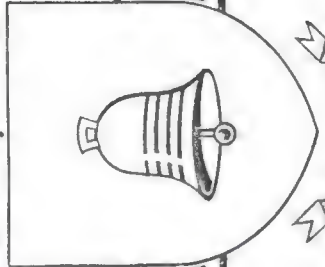
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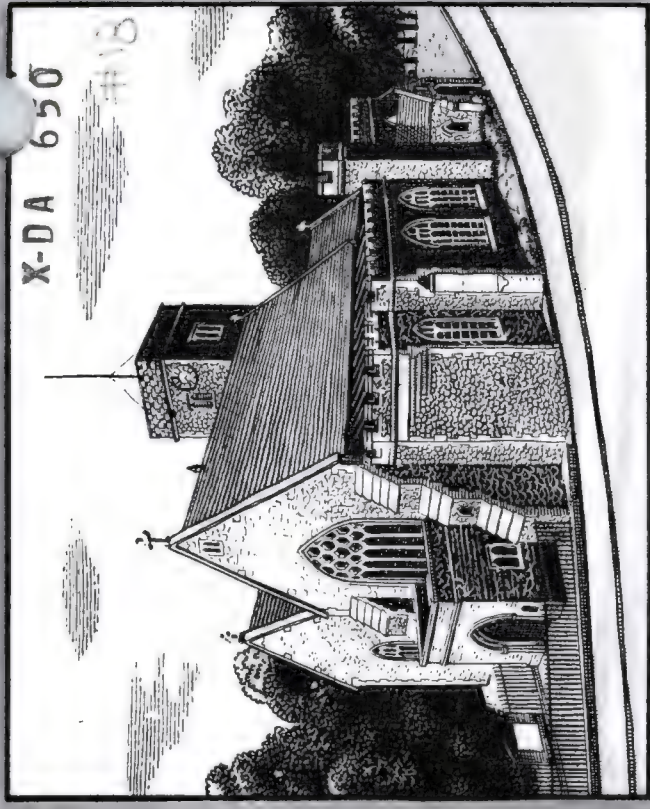


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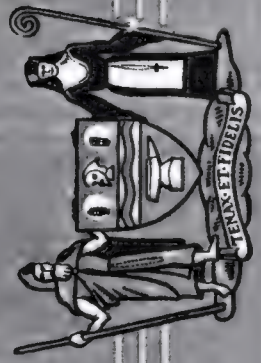
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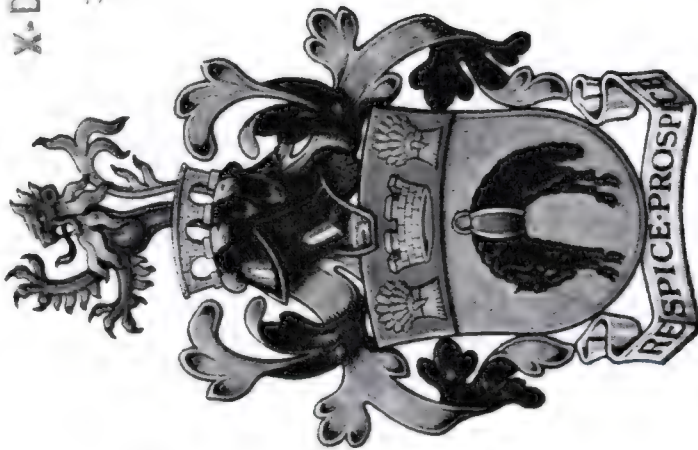
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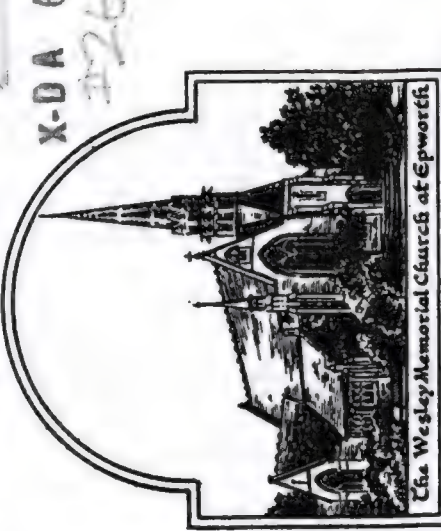
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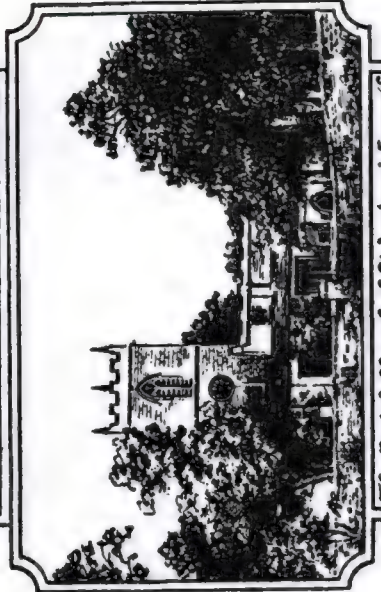
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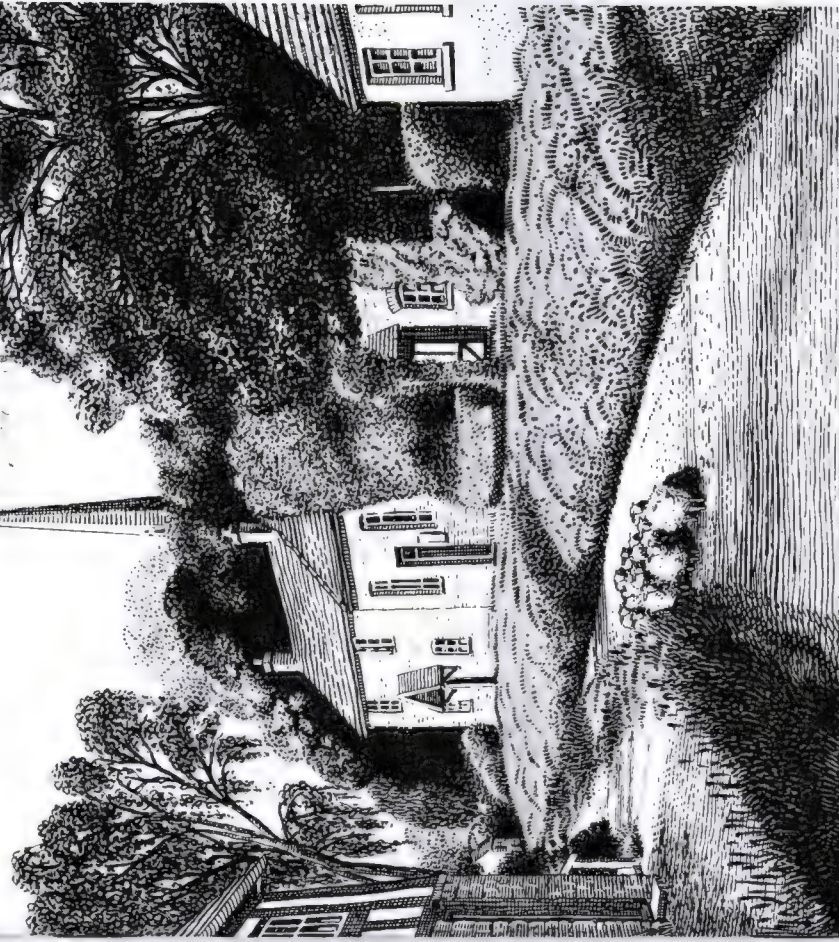


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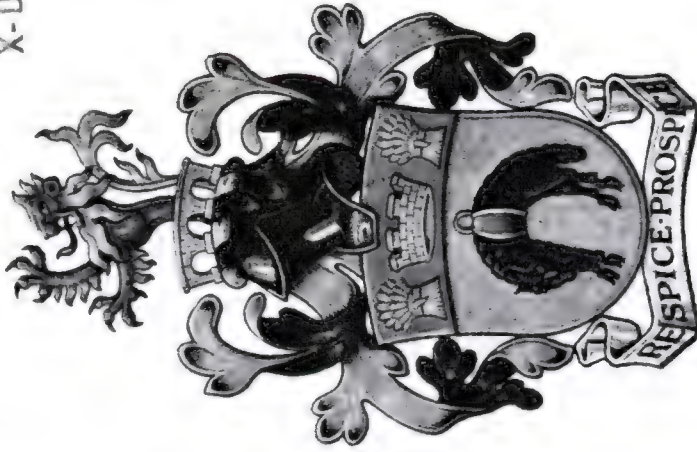
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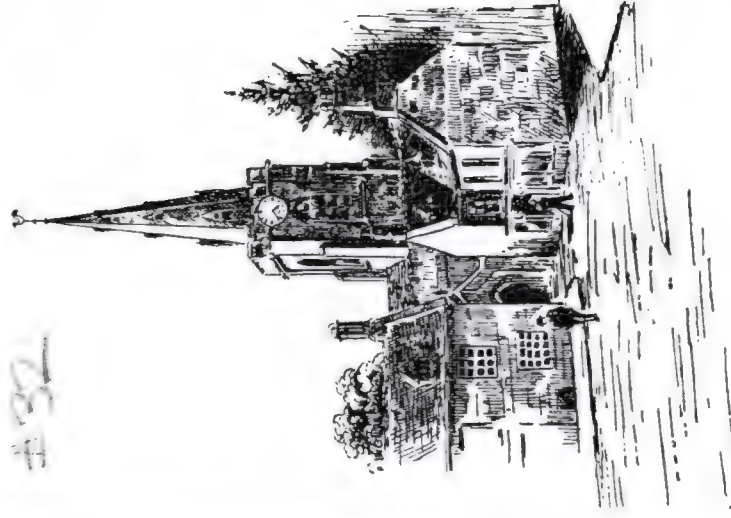
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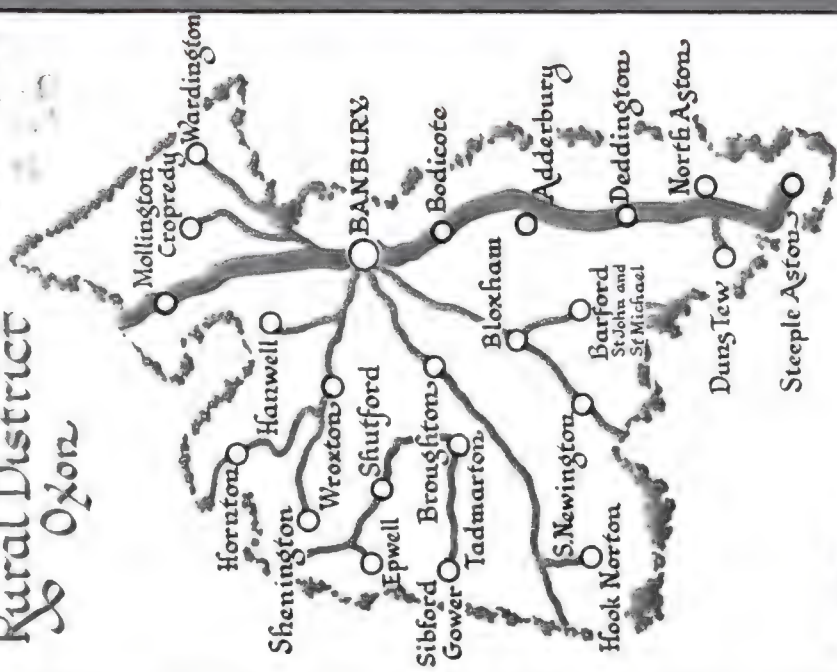
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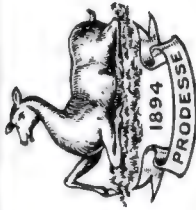
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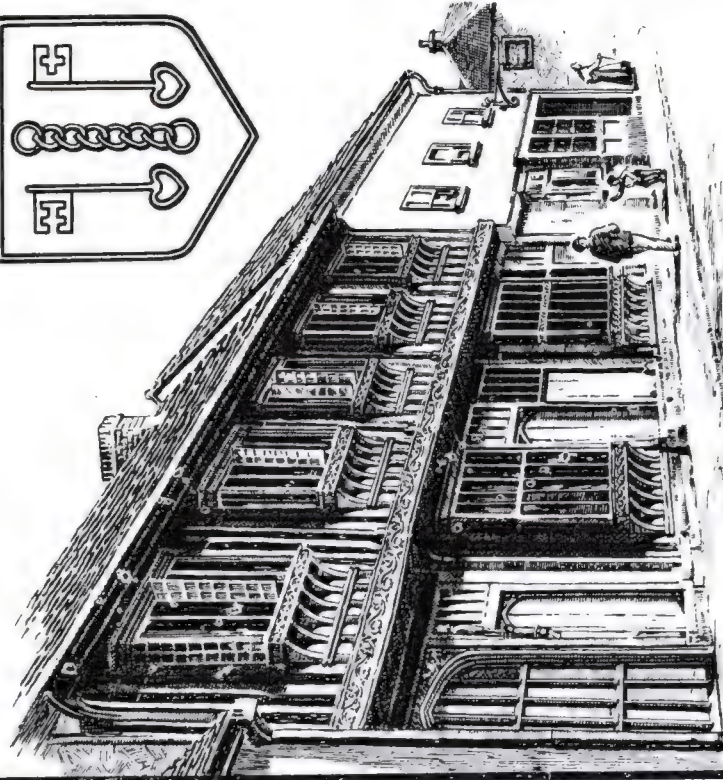
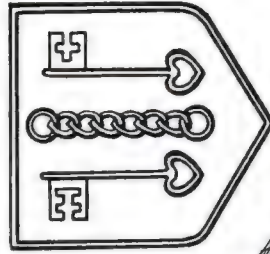
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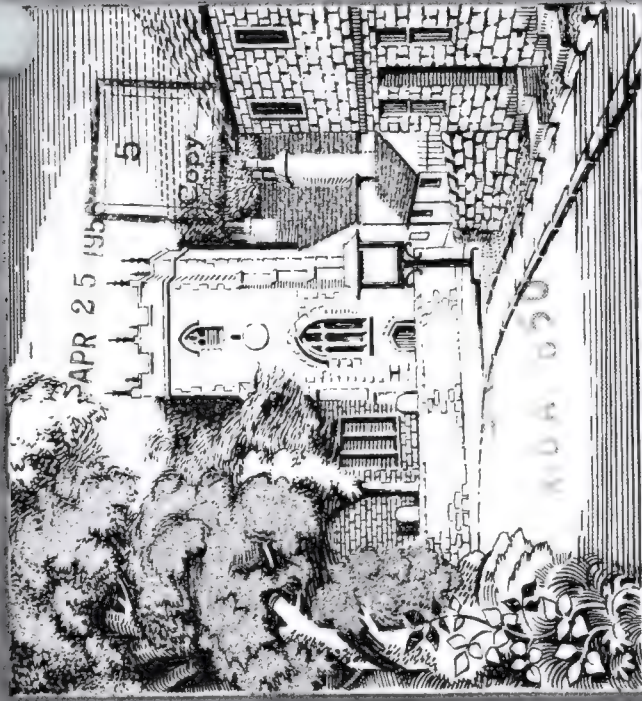
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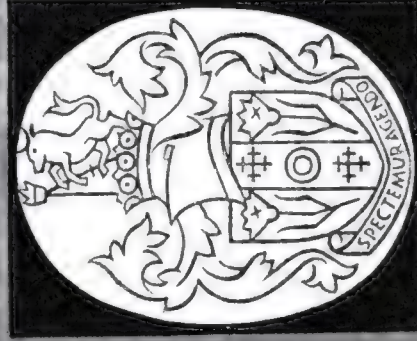


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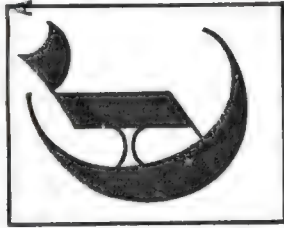
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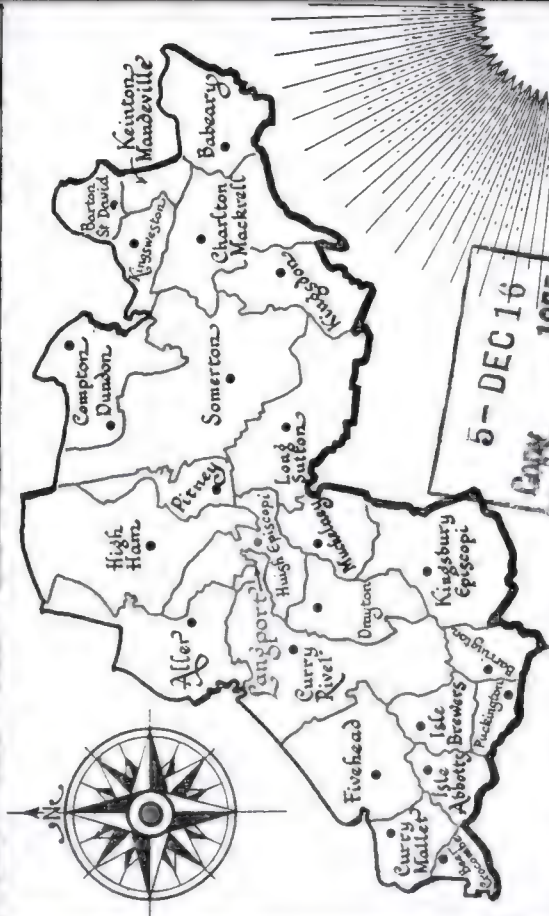
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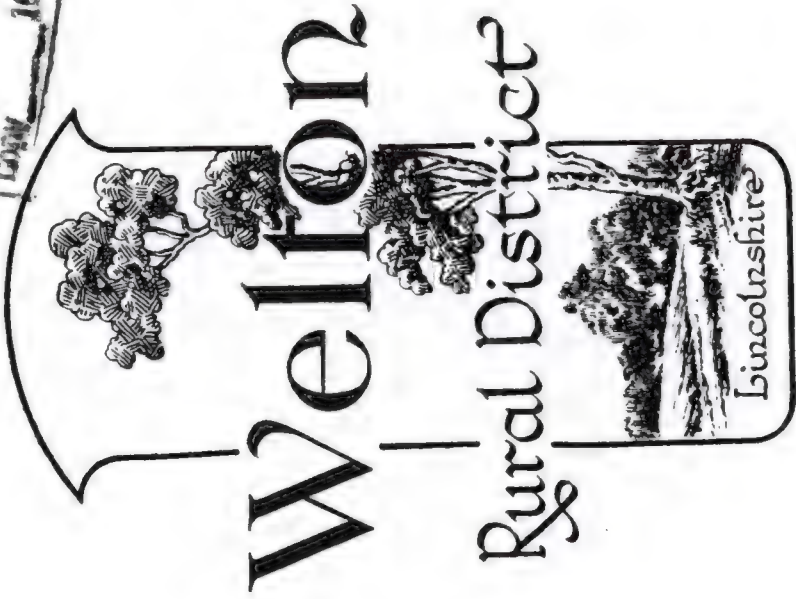
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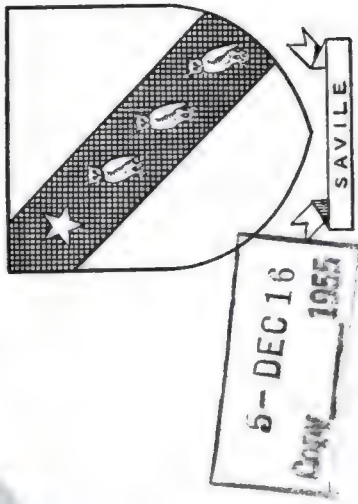
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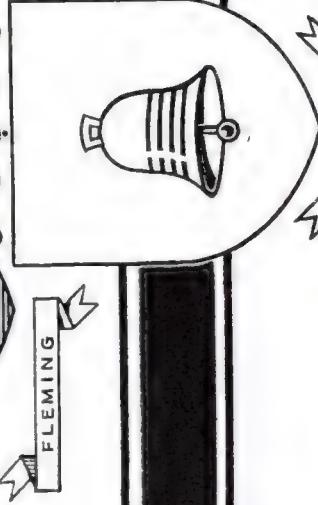
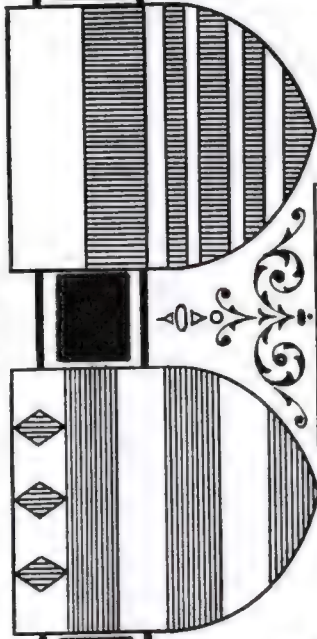
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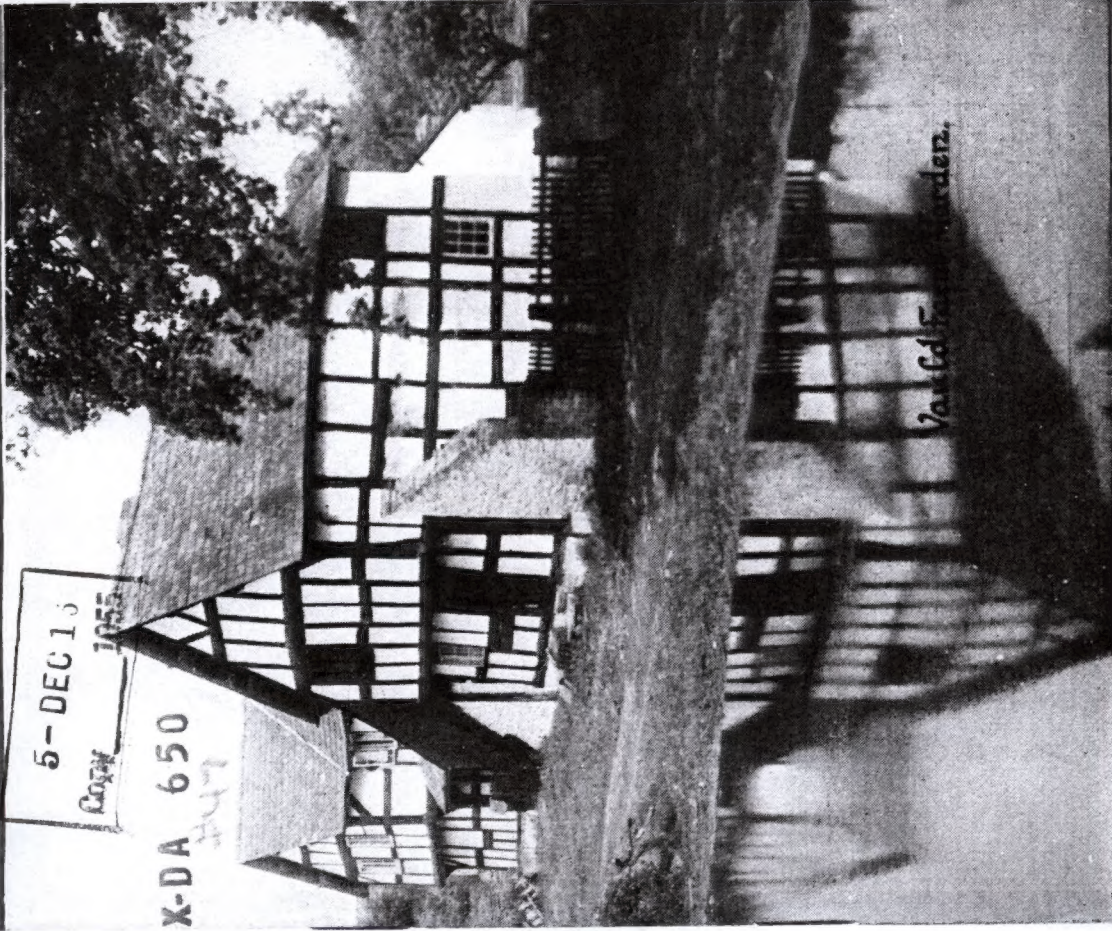


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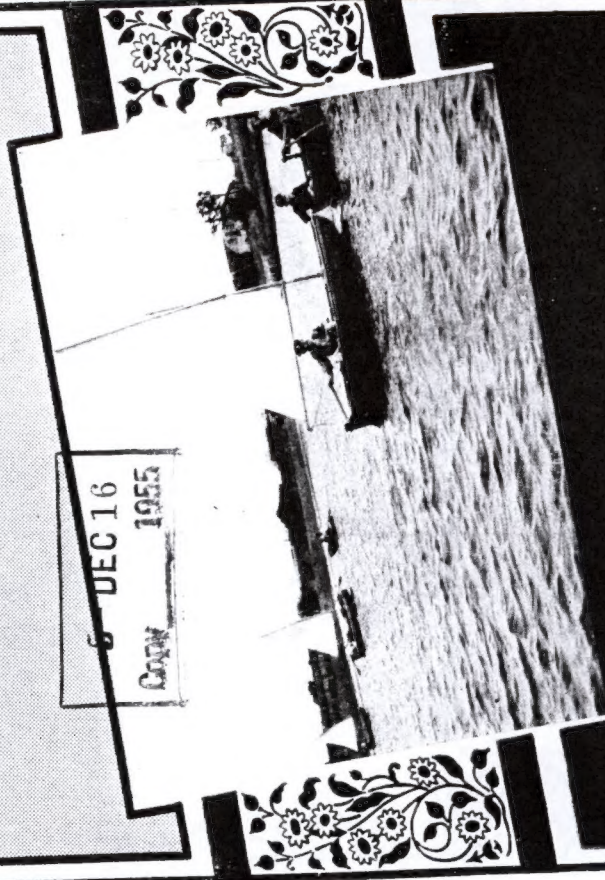
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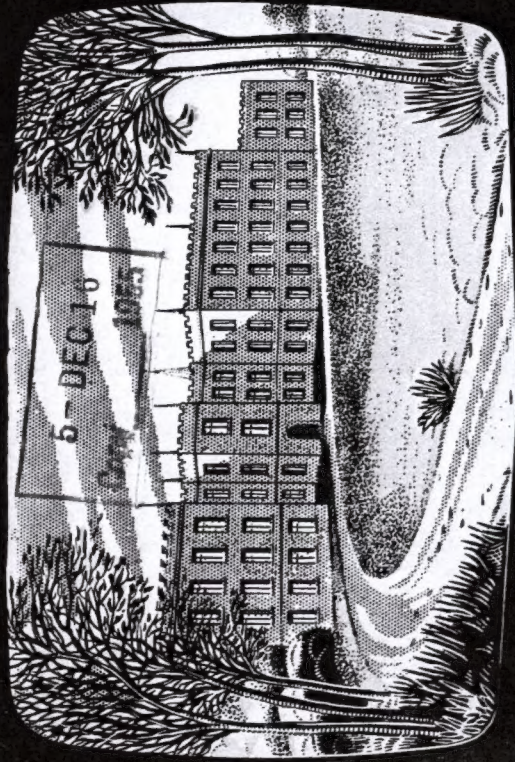
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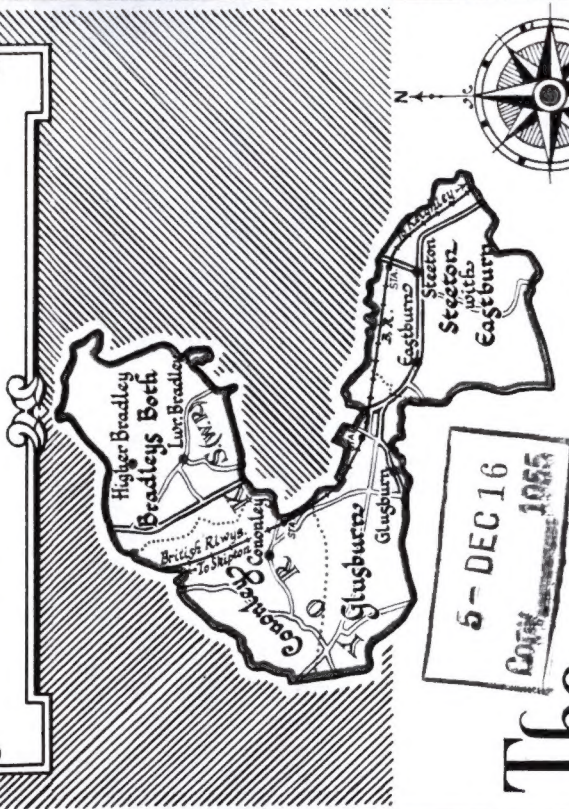
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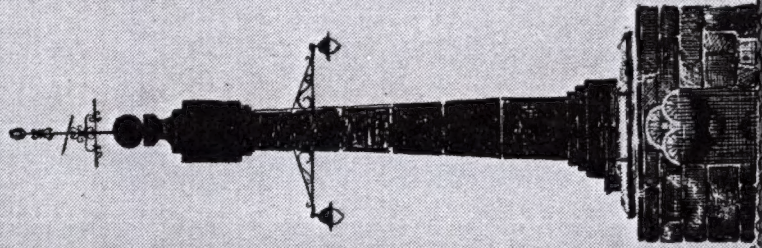
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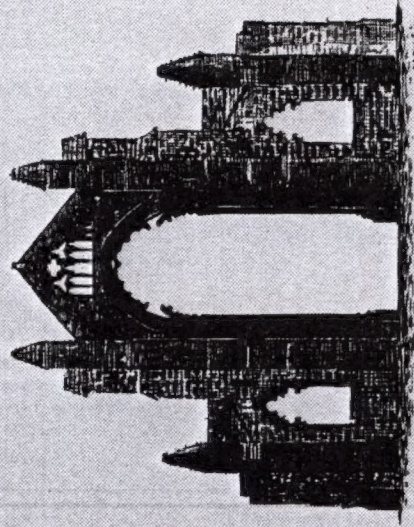
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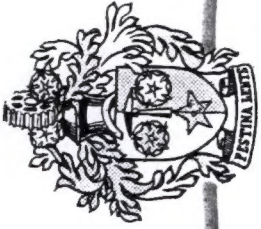
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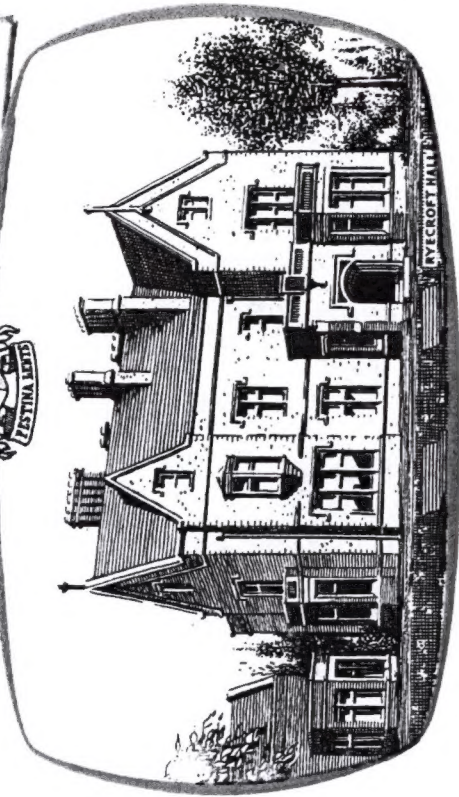
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